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THE  
Friendly Conference  
OR, AN  
HUE and CRY

After the

POPES HOLINESS.

Discovering the corrupt Doctrines of the  
CHURCH, and abominable Practises  
of the COURT and CLERGY of

R O M E,

To raise themselves to their present Pomp  
and Grandeur.

With the several Prodigious Births of the

Whore of Babilon:

And how she has prefer'd all her Children.

In a familiar Dialogue between Theophilus a  
Protestant, and Juliano lately turn'd Papist.

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# HUE AND CRY

After the

## Popes Holiness, &c.



Juliano.

**Y**our Servant Theophilus.

*Theophilus.* I am heartily glad to see you  
Juliano, the rather for that I was lately in-  
formed you were dead.

Juliano. *How ? dead ! have people talks me into a Ghost ? I le-  
c'en run to the Prerogative and enter a Caveat my self, least some  
Knuve or other should take Administration of my Estate. Dead !  
I protest I know no business I shall have in the other World this fifty  
years : There's nothing in Nature I hate so much as dying this cold  
weather, for truly I canctive a Tomb, though made of Marble;  
and placed in the Chancel, but a damp untoward Lodging ; besides  
it yields no good company, for the men lose their Sences before they  
come thither ; and as soon as the women have been there a while,  
they all grow flat-nos'd.*

*Theoph.* I perceive you mind dying but little ; but if you  
fear catching cold in your Grave, you were best charge your  
Executor to bury you Legally in Flannel : however I doubt  
you may have more reason to apprehend burning torments, than  
Cold, for I hear you are dead Spiritually : I mean, *Twice dead  
and pluckt up by the roots, as the Apostle Phrases it : That you  
have*

have forfeited your Discretion, cast your Reason over-board, and abandon'd your Religion.

Juliano. *I hate dissembling, and must own my self a Roman-Catholick.*

*Theoph.* Can you hate Dissemulation, and yet own at the same time a Religion that is made up of nothing but Frauds, Cheats, and Delusions: That very Title *Roman Catholique*, is a Falacy, or at best an Absurdity in Terminus; for since the *English*, and proper signification of the Word *Catholique* is no more then general or universal: to joyn *Rome* to it, is an insignificant Bull, and as pure non-sence, as to say a particular, Universal, or a general Individual.

Juliano. *I shall not quarrel with you about words; I am a member of the Church of Rome, that Mother Church where true Religion has flourisht ever since it was first planted there, by the Apostles in an uninterrupted Succession: that Church to which our Saviour has given Priviledge to be the infallible Judge of all Controversies, and promised, the gates of Hell shall never prevail against it.*

*Theoph.* Alas Sir! you boast of the Casket when the Jewels are gone; The Church of Rome, sailing under the merry gale of Earthly pomp and prosperity, has long since discharged her self of that rich Laden she was fraught with, when she Traded for Souls under the Fathers of the Primitive Ages, there having since been such a succession of Imperious greatness in that Chair, that Rome is more like the proud triumphant Chappel of Antichrist, than the poor militant Church of God.

Juliano. *The Primacy over the Apostles and Spirit of infallibility was delivered to Peter, and thence conveyed down in his successors Bishops of Rome, so that there could be no such Apostacy as you pretend.*

*Theoph.* These phrivolous pretences are easily confuted; but not to enter into a tedious Discourse, I shall only ask you this serious Question, since you can cast your eyes upon no story where the villary of Popes is not largely discovered, how can you conceit that the pure Spirit of God should endow with

infalibility of judgement. Monsters so visibly debauch'd? or how can you believe the Holy Ghost, which under the Law forbid all impurity, though in outward Ceremony, should now under the brighter light of the Gospel suffer himself to be poured out of one unclean vessel, into another, beginning again with a Conjuror, where he left off with a Sodomite?

Juliano. *I cannot believe any Papes were ever guilty of such Crimes, or if they were, these are still personal Infirmities.*

Theoph. But most gross ones in those that blasphemously stile themselves *Their Holinesses*, and impudently boast to the world that they cannot err, nor can deny the truth of their impieties, as to matter of fact without proclaiming your own ignorance in History.

Juliano. *Truly Sir, you know I am but a Lay-man, and do not pretend too much Reading.*

Theoph. The fitter to embrace a Religion, whose chiefest support is ignorance: But for your information, I care not if I draw a short Historical Scheme of your Romish Church, that you may see by what means and degrees it first intruded to that Grandeur, with the gawdy Lustre whereof your eyes have been so far dazled, as to chuse a Cloud for Juno, change a Diamond for a Bristol-stone, and forsake the true Spouse of Christ, to wantonize in the embraces of a painted Harlot.

Juliano. *I am satisfied with my choice, yet care not if I give you the hearing, since you will needs take upon you as a Doctor.*

Theoph. Thus then, after the piety of some primitive Bishops of Rome, augmented by the Name of that Imperial City had purchased them reputation, so that they got first to be Arch-Bishops, then Patriarchs, and at last to the Papal Title (A name 'tis thought derived *Quasæ patet Patriarchatum*) which for Brevity was written *Papa*.) They soon began to change their piety for promotion, and taking the advantage of new-kindled zeal, whereby they led Princes and people at pleasure; they had the opportunity to carve themselves almost what power or Riches they list. But as policy can seldom tread long in that narrow path that guides to Heaven, so



at last it led them into a World of Impieties, by encroaching under pretence of Religion, upon higher Jurisdiction and power, than could belong to subjects, which they colour'd as the Donations of Princes, who had indeed no better Titles to their Crowns than Usurpation on the weakness of the former possessors : And were therefore glad of the Popes protection, because people out of Ignorance esteem'd these most just that were most favour'd by the Clergy. Thus a bargain was often driven for mutual assistance between Usurpers and the Pope, who in his approbations diligently laid up their petitions, and his grants to remain as precedents whereby to guide to posterity. The Cloud of Ignorance then covering the World, was a great help to keep their Juggling undiscovered ; that little learning extant, was wholly included in Monastick Cells ; who took the opportunity to make most Books speak in their favour : which being only a few Manuscripts might easily be effected. Besides the Clergy were kept unmarried on purpose, that being free from all other obligations, they might solely intend the promoting their own Interest, (which they call'd the power and Immunities of the Church) So that in time by the Indulgence of good, and necessity of wicked and Illegitimate princes, they freed their whole society from the temporal Jurisdiction : And now having purchased Base, Honour, and Impunity ; such as were Poor, Guilty, or Ambitious, List'd themselves of their fellowship, and being for the most part of the best Abilities, soon learned the skill so to work on the consciences of dying people affrighted with their sins, that the Church was left Heir of the best part of Christendome. Nor did they only make use of the profitable errors left them by their fore-fathers, but brought in new ones of their own contriving, gilding them with the splendid Tytles of things necessary, and of Religious use : Thus Images came to be Idolized, the Cognizance of the Cross made a Tutelary God, looking no higher in their Extremities, and the blessed Saints scandalized with the worship given to them, and their Reliques.

Thus

Thus a fire is kindled in purgatory, only to maintain that in the Popes Kitchen, confession is devised as a pick-lock to discover each mans secrets, pardons for all past sins, and Indulgences for never so many to come, are publicly Exposed, and in brief all Religion almost made subservient to their Politics & cursed Avarice; whilst the Monks and all sorts of Fryers are daily promoted and armed with Immense privileges, as a strong and faithful Militia in all Countries for the Sea of Rome, yet fed and paid by the respective Princes, that tamely suffer themselves to be enslaved by Popish Tyranny. To conclude most of the things in dispute, which you would Impose on our Church concern, either profit or honour; and were brought in by the subtile Preists long since the primitive times, taking advantage from the Ignorance of preceeding Ages, nor can such Papists as are wise conversant in History, and acquainted with the present practice of the Court of Rome, but be souly suspected of Atheisme, because conscience can never be perswaded against a convincing experience.

*Juliano. Sure you have rail'd your self out of breath by this time against the Pope, but I cannot now stand to answer your Invektive story particularly, having some occasions that oblige me to take my leave.*

*Theoph. I shall freely dismiss you, only desire you would before you go, favour me with some brief Relation, how you came to be thus seduced, winnow and sift your heart, to find out what threw you into this Abiss. He that falls into the water by breaking through the Ice, must rise where he fell, or he is lost beyond recovery.*

*Juliano. Truly Sir, I came to embrace the Catholique Religion, as it were by accident, being about two Months ago, at my Cozen Esquirs Preistridden's, after Dinner being very merry, Topping off three or four dozen Bottles of wine, with two strange Gentlemen, that happen'd to be there, one of them began by degrees to feel my pulse as to Religion, and did applaud the Romish Church as the onely certain true easie and orthodox way, and so far decry the protestant, that I who then had more mind to sleep than dispute, knew not scarce  
what*



what to answer; and at last the whole Company plying me so hard at once with strong Arguments, and full Glasses, that I seemingly consented; whereupon next day the two Gentlemen (who as I may tell you under the Rose were a couple of reveren'd Fathers of the Society of Jesus) came to my house, and there continued till they had compleated my Conversion.

*Theoph.* A most excellent method. These are the Jesuites who compass Land and Sea for a proselite, and barbarously caused more than a 100000 silly *Americans* to be murdered, to the disgrace of Christianity, I cannot but admire so many of our English Gentry (in other things very Judicious) should suffer themselves to be rookt, oppressd, enslaved, and often undone by these *Egyptian Locusts*. I knew a young Gentleman of 2000l. a year, married not above three years ago into a Catholike family, who by their art seduced him to their Religion, whereupon he was continually haunted with such Shoals of these Roman Horfleaches, that preying continually on his means, they soon brought his estate into a Consumption, and his wife dying, wheadled him to bestow the remainder on a Colledge of theirs, & Imare himself for the wretched remainder of his life in a Monastery: thus they bought their Pallace at *Dulverport*, with the vast portion of a ghost-led Maid, who was forced afterwards to Live afflictedly upon their sorry Alms, and repent of her mistaken Charity. Thus their Abbey of *Lanspring*, they subtilly recovered from the *Lutherans*, so they fool'd a doating old Abbot with false Alarms out of England, till he Invested them in their Colledge at *Doway*, & purchased their sumptuous House at *Paris*, by a trick no less Impious and fraudulent. In brief, Treason, Rebellion, Fraud, Deceit, and Circumvention have bin their continual study, since *Loyola* hatcht them into the world; concerning which I shall only tell you one story, and then refer you to your occasions. Once upon a time, (for so all tales use to begin) *Rome* was with-child, and she brought forth her eldest Son, The Benedictine Monk, to him as Heir she gave her Lands, she remain'd free a while, but at last she was with child again, and brought into the Light Twins.

Twins. The *Dominican* and the *Franciscan* Fryer: to the first having already bestowed her Lands, she gave certain Houses & Moneys by way of pension: to the other (having now nothing else left) The Wallet, and set him out of doors a begging: she stood clear again for a considerable time, till at last she was once more Mountain-big, she long'd, she groan'd, she drew her breath short, and made store of out-landish faces, but in Conclusion gave the World a Lusty Boy, who was no sooner born, but he utter'd from natures backdoor, the Midwives Lapful, which was interpreted an omen of future good Luck. This was the fiery *Jesuite*, and his Mother having given away Lands, Houses, Wallet and all, took him up gave him a smart clap on the right Buttock, and said, My Darling, shift for thy self, and so he has done ever since most accurately, to the Destruction of all places where he comes.

*Juliano.* I will be in Debt to you for this story till our next meeting: In the Interim, consider your condition, and remember, that out of the Church there is no Salvation.

*Thoph.* I do consider my own condition and pitty yours; remembering the punishment attending them who turn their backs on sacred truths, they have once professed, and make void the Law of God by their vain Traditions.

FINIS.



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